

Message

From: Perez, Idalia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=03B7A08FDFBE4934911F17550D78491D-IPEREZ]
Sent: 3/24/2020 7:17:32 PM
To: Aguirre, Hector [Aguirre.Hector@epa.gov]; Lopez-Powers, Lorena [Lopez-Powers.Lorena@epa.gov]
CC: Gibson, Benjamin [gibson.benjamin@epa.gov]; Lawrence, Laura [Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov]
Subject: question on small grants along the Border

Hi Héctor and Lorena,

We are working with Ben Gibson in HQ to explore options to fund requests that we received from our agencies that are outside of the scope of what we can currently do. Ben has a question about grants (copied from his email, forwarded below):

for beyond FY20, is there a formal mechanism/program we could establish to solicit and fund small grant proposals like this for the border? Does Region 9 already do anything like that? I'm thinking <\$10K with relatively short proposal and implementation windows.

My understating based on the recent team meeting when we discussed grants outside of NADBank is that we used to have Border grant solicitations, but they did not allow for funding entities in Mexico. Please correct me if I'm misremembering.

For context, below are the current requests that we are struggling to fund. Both of these would be funding for Mexican agencies, which is outside the scope of what our clean air act grants allow:

Agency	Project	Cost
ICAPCD	City of Mexicali: hire additional staff for nocturnal enforcement of burning regulations November through January	\$8,000
ARB	Pay travel expenses for INECC to complete monitor audit in Mexicali (with participation of ARB)	\$5,000

Thanks,
-Idalia

Idalia M. Pérez, Ph.D.
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Our mission is to protect human health and the environment.

From: Gibson, Benjamin <gibson.benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:00 AM
To: Lawrence, Laura <Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov>
Cc: Perez, Idalia <Perez.Idalia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Solicitation for US/Mexico Project Proposals for Clean Air Act 105 Funds in FY2020--Deadline March 5, 2020

Laura, Idalia,

I have explored several different paths with finance and contracts staff for spending our \$150K border funds. Unfortunately, it's mostly dead ends for these kinds of projects. Bottom line is that we need to use it for contractor

support, and for anything this fiscal year it would almost certainly need to be under an existing statement of work (including those established in Regional offices). Direct funding for work across the border, as you know, is tough. For these particular proposals, I have been advised that the best possible option would be under Region 9's Environmental Services Assistance Team (ESAT) contract (EPW13029). So, it sounds like if you all could set up for the money to be used under that contract, we might be able to move the funds over to support it. Is that an option you have already explored?

This question has me thinking, for beyond FY20, is there a formal mechanism/program we could establish to solicit and fund small grant proposals like this for the border? Does Region 9 already do anything like that? I'm thinking <\$10K with relatively short proposal and implementation windows.

Let me know your thoughts on both fronts whenever you have a chance.

Thanks,
Ben

From: Lawrence, Laura <Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Gibson, Benjamin <gibson.benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Perez, Idalia <Perez.Idalia@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Solicitation for US/Mexico Project Proposals for Clean Air Act 105 Funds in FY2020--Deadline March 5, 2020

Hi Ben,

The City of Mexicali inspectors project is the last item on the Imperial APCD request.

Thanks for any help or ideas you can provide.

Good chatting with you today. Stay healthy and safe!

Laura

Laura Lawrence
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From: Belen Leon <BelenLeon@co.imperial.ca.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Zimpfer, Amy <Zimpfer.Amy@epa.gov>; Matt Dessert <MattDessert@co.imperial.ca.us>
Cc: michael.benjamin@arb.ca.gov; Reyes Romero <ReyesRomero@co.imperial.ca.us>; Perez, Idalia <Perez.Idalia@epa.gov>; LAWRENCE, LAURA <Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov>; Reyes Romero <ReyesRomero@co.imperial.ca.us>
Subject: RE: Solicitation for US/Mexico Project Proposals for Clean Air Act 105 Funds in FY2020--Deadline March 5, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Attached you will find the Imperial-Mexicali Air Quality Task Force (AQTF) projects. The AQTF and ICAPCD will be collaborating with the City of Mexicali, SPA, and Redspira in this effort.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact Reyes Romero or myself.

Thank you,

Belen Leon-Lopez

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From: Zimpfer, Amy <Zimpfer.Amy@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 2:51 PM

To: Matt Dessert <MattDessert@co.imperial.ca.us>

Cc: michael.benjamin@arb.ca.gov; Belen Leon <BelenLeon@co.imperial.ca.us>; Reyes Romero <ReyesRomero@co.imperial.ca.us>; Perez, Idalia <Perez.Idalia@epa.gov>; LAWRENCE, LAURA <Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov>

Subject: Solicitation for US/Mexico Project Proposals for Clean Air Act 105 Funds in FY2020--Deadline March 5, 2020

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

Dear Matt,

I hope this email finds you well. The purpose of this email is to inform you that EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division has Fiscal Year 2020 Clean Air Act section 105 grant funds available for activities and projects along the U.S.-Mexico Border region. As we have done in previous years, we are asking for proposed activities and projects you would like us to consider funding in the Imperial-Mexicali airsheds. We anticipate our available funds will be similar to those we have had in previous years. And, as we have experienced every year, we expect we will have more project proposals than we have available funds. It is likely we will have to make difficult choices in prioritizing what we fund. Our priorities are listed below.

Please reply **by COB Thursday March 5th** with ideas and associated costs to me and copy Laura Lawrence (Lawrence.Laura@epa.gov) and Idalia Pérez (Perez.Idalia@epa.gov). Feel free to let me or my staff know if you have any questions about the process or our priority areas. Laura and Idalia will reach out to the appropriate staff after the proposals are received to review them and clarify any questions.

We are looking for projects that compliment and build on our joint previous successes as we transition to the post-Border 2020 framework. Some of our priorities include:

- If possible, projects located in Mexico
- Projects that overlap with likely objectives of the program that will supersede Border 2020:
 - Air quality monitoring
 - Emission inventory
 - Reductions of vehicle emissions at or near ports-of-entry
 - Emission reductions in nonattainment areas
- Projects that support Region 9 Air and Radiation Division Operating Plan priorities:
 - Binational border air quality task force meetings
 - Community engagement and outreach, including outreach focused on decreasing emissions, such as media campaigns to discourage open burning, and decreasing exposure, such as promoting the Air Quality Flag Program.
 - Addressing high rates of asthma at the border through outreach and training, supporting sustainable financing, and funding asthma service partners.

- Supporting efforts regarding the future impacts of the Salton Sea on air quality or other emerging air pollution issues.
- Projects in the Border area that complement State Implementation Plan and/or other CAA activities traditionally supported by 105 grants.
- Projects that leverage other resources.

Thank you for your and your staff's efforts to improve air quality along the US-Mexico Border. We greatly appreciate the partnership with have with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. We look forward to continuing to work closely together and targeting CAA 105 funds to the most critical needs.

Regards,

Amy Zimpfer

Amy Zimpfer, Assistant Director
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